

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time in conducting informal telephone conferences with the Applicant's representative on March 5, 2007, and on March 8, 2007, to discuss the Examiner's interpretation of the independent claims and the Lekven reference. The claims have been amended to clarify the invention in light of the Examiner's concerns regarding the use of the term "formatting".

Claims 1-3, 8-11, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent publication number 2002/0178003 to Gehrke et al. ("Gehrke") in view of U.S. patent number 6,289,226 to Lekven et al. ("Lekven") and further in view of Japanese publication number 2001-308970 to Soo ("Soo"). Claims 4-7 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehrke in view of Lekven and further in view of U.S. patent publication number 2003/0139171 to Kuita ("Kuita").

Independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the invention from the combination of Gehrke, Lekven, and Soo. Applicant believes that claim 1 is now patentable over the combination of Gehrke, Lekven, and Soo. As amended, claim 1 has been clarified to show that "formatting" is intended to mean "preparing the telephone number for display using a predetermined telephone number format including at least one separation character". This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in either Gehrke, Lekven, or Soo. The Examiner directs the Applicant to paragraph [0013] of Soo to support the use of a word command in formatting the telephone number, now clarified to be "preparing the telephone number for display." Paragraph [0013] of Soo describes the use of a spoken character as a short-hand command to retrieve a telephone number for dialing. No mention is made in Soo regarding preparing numbers of any type for display by inserting separation characters into a string of numbers.

Furthermore, the motivation to combine Soo with Lekven and Gehrke is unclear. As discussed previously, Gehrke teaches a voice recognition system, including a training module, but does not discuss formatting either numbers or words for display. Regarding Lekven, the system in Lekven is capable of formatting, or preparing a string

of numbers for display, only a string of digits that corresponds to a known telephone number from a calling plan, as stored in the memory of the Lekven system. Col. 6, lines 35-38. The Lekven system relies exclusively upon comparing a string of digits, digit-by-digit, to stored tables of valid telephone numbers. Lekven, col. 4, line 61-col. 6, line 4. If a non-valid numeric digit is received by the system, the system does not apply any formatting characters to the string, as the string is not considered to be a valid telephone number according to the stored calling plan tables. Lekven, FIG. 6, col. 10, line 62 – col. 11, line 17. Combining Soo with the combination of Gehrke and Lekven to insert words into the numeric string would render the system in Gehrke and Lekven unsuited for its intended purpose, as the Lekven parser would not be able to prepare a string of numbers and words for display.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is now patentable over the combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven. As claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 depend from claim 1, these claims include all of the limitations of the independent claim and are also patentable over the combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven. The new language of claim 2 is supported in paragraph [059] of the specification.

Claims 4-7 also depend from claim 1 and include all of the limitations of the independent claim, and are also patentable over the combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven. The additional cited reference, Kuita, does not overcome the deficiencies of the combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven in teaching that a second format be applied to a non-telephone number. Therefore, claims 4-7 are also patentable over the cited combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven and further in view of Kuita.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to clarify the invention in view of the cited combination of Gehrke in view of Lekven. Claim 10 as amended now clarifies that a non-telephone number be prepared for display by dividing and separating the digits of the number string into at least two groups. This limitation is not taught by either Gehrke or Lekven.

In the Office Action, on page 7, the Examiner states that Lekven teaches that a second format is used to format a non-telephone number, and directs the Applicant to

Lekven, col. 8, line 66 through col. 9, line 20. However, this cited passage teaches only that one of a plurality of different telephone number formats may be selected for the input *telephone numbers*. On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner points, in particular, to col. 9, lines 47-57 as teaching that a the Lekven reference teaches that a second format may be applied to a non-telephone number. However, the cited passage teaches only that formatting characters (such as open and closed parentheses, hyphens, and periods) of a pre-determined number parsing format stored in the parsing format storage area (element 140) may be edited. Formatting characters, as used in the Lekven system, are not numbers, as the formatting characters are used to separate strings of numbers into a readable format. Lekven, col. 6, lines 44-61. Changing formatting characters, for example, from a hyphen to a period, is not tantamount to editing the numbers of an entered or received string of numbers that are not a telephone number.

In contrast to the suggestion that the combination of Gehrke and Lekven teaches preparing non-telephone numbers for display by grouping and separating the string of digits, Lekven in fact teaches away from applying a format to non-telephone numbers. Lekven teaches that applying formatting to a non-telephone number would prove to be confusing, so no format is to be applied to non-telephone numbers. *See*, Lekven, col. 1, lines 57-60, col. 6, lines 18-43, col. 7, lines 15-28, col. 8, lines 52-56.

For these reasons, the combination of Gehrke and Lekven fails to teach at least this limitation. Therefore, independent claim 10 as originally filed is patentable over the combination of Gehrke and Lekven. Further, as claims 11 and 15 depend from claim 10, these claims include all of the limitations of the independent claim and are also patentable over the combination of Gehrke and Lekven.

Claims 12-14 also depend from claim 10 and include all of the limitations of the independent claim, and are also patentable over the combination of Gehrke and Lekven. The additional cited reference, Kuita, does not overcome the deficiencies of the combination of Gehrke and Lekven. Therefore, claims 12-14 are also patentable.

Claims 16, 17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent publication number 2003/0064748 to Stulberger ("Stulberger") in view of Lekven. Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stulberger in view of Lekven and further in view of Kuita. Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to clarify the invention in light of the combination of Stulberger in view of Lekven.

Independent claim 16 includes the limitation that the HFT system applies divides and separates a first type of information into a first set of groups and divides and separates a second type of information into a second set of groups, the first set of groups being different from the second set of groups. As discussed above, Lekven teaches only that a valid telephone number is parsed for display and teaches away from parsing a second type of information. Stulberger does not overcome the deficiencies of the teachings of Lekven, as Stulberger also does not teach dividing and separating two types of information in different manners. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over the combination of Stulberger in view of Lekven.

As claims 17 and 20 depend from claim 16, these claims include all of the limitations of the independent claim and are also patentable over the combination of Stulberger in view of Lekven.

Further, claims 18 and 19 also depend from claim 16 and include all of the limitations of the independent claim, and are also patentable over the combination of Stulberger in view of Lekven. The additional cited reference, Kuita, does not overcome the deficiencies of the combination of Stulberger in view of Lekven. Therefore, claims 18 and 19 are also patentable.


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In view of the foregoing, the amendments to the claims put the application in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests entrance of this Amendment. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PLUMSEA LAW GROUP, LLC

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By: 
Michael S. Lee
Registration Number: 41,434
Telephone number: 301-365-9040